

# THE THESSALONIANS & BEREANS

## Acts 17:1-13

**Acts 17:1 *Passed through***—Traveling westward on famous Roman Road called Egnatian Way. Neapolis, Philippi, Amphipolis, Apollonia, Thessalonica.

Plan: evangelize main cities.

**Thessalonica:** free city—had own constitution. Capital city for whole province.

**Acts 17:2 *As his manner was*:** custom, habit. ***He went in unto them*:** Into synagogue to build a bridge of ministry to Jews and God-fearing Gentiles. ***Three Sabbath days*:** First 3 weeks. ***Reasoned with them out of the scriptures*,** select, distinguish, to resolve in the mind, to converse (interchange of ideas). Method of Q and A (Socratic method-dialectic).

**Acts 17:3 *Opening*:** expounding the scriptures. ***Alleging*:** quoting scriptures to prove doctrine. Expounding. Declaring as if under oath. Bringing forward—quoting as evidence. Laying it all out on the table. ***And must needs have suffered***—proving and explaining thoroughly that Messiah suffer, die, and rise from dead. Theme: Jesus Christ, Messiah, had to suffer according to the scriptures. (Lk 24:25-27).

Adam Clarke: *By proving this point, he corrected their false notion of a triumphant Messiah, and thus removed the scandal of the cross.*

Jews saw Messiah as ruler and not redeemer.

They only saw peaks—birth and reign of Christ. No Jew accepted idea of suffering and death of Messiah.

***and risen again from the dead***; proof of gospel. Jesus died as Savior of world. As anointed of God. Lord of Lords...God in flesh.

Jesus arose--central theme in NT.

***and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ***. Point of conclusion when preaching to Jews. He is fulfillment of prophecy. The anointed one of Israel, God, the Son.

**Acts 17:4 *Some of them believed***. Believed Jesus the fulfillment of prophecy. Promised Messiah. Anointed one of Israel. Put faith and trust in Jesus Christ.

***Consorted with Paul and Silas*:** Became convinced, joined up with them. Associated with them. ***Devout Greeks*:** God-fearing Gentiles not under rule of rabbis as Jews. Proselytes to Jewish religion.

***And chief women not a few*:** Prestigious women in the community. Upper class of women in the community.

Thessalonian believers

➤ Good testimony 1 Thess. 1:7

➤ Soul winners. 1 Thess. 1:8

Paul and Silas. mixture of boldness and doctrine. 2 Timothy 2:15

**Acts 17:5** burn with zeal, fired up and boiling with envy, hatred, and anger.

Why jealous? Paul and Silas had stolen people.

*Lewd fellows of baser sort*, bunch of depraved, hucksters, and petty traffickers from off streets and terrorized city as they started a riot.

*Assaulted the house of Jason*: Attacked, rushed at; made an immediate assent upon the house of Jason. *Jason*—convert and possibly a relative of Paul (Acts 17:7).

*and sought to bring them out to the people*. To lead them, to induce them, drag them, like an animal, out to the people.

**Acts 17:6 Rulers**: Political leaders, politarchs.... *turned the world upside down* ...set world in confusion.

**Acts 17:7 Jason hath received**: Jason is guilty of harboring criminals of the state.

*These all do contrary to the decrees of Caesar*— All of a sudden become very loyal and law abiding citizens. *Another king, one Jesus*—Treason! Penalty--death!

**Acts 17:8 Troubled**: agitated, stirred up

**Acts 17:9 ... taken security of Jason, ...** Made Jason and others post bail for Paul and Silas and released them while they investigated all other charges.

### **Applications:**

1. *Opening and alleging*—use of reason and scriptures to document their statements
2. Jews and devout Greeks got saved. Religious groups need Christ, too.
3. The verbalization of the Word impacted a whole city....turned upside the world.

**Acts 17:10 Unto Berea**: 50 miles S.W. of Thessalonica. Population: 6,000.

*Synagogue*: Every synagogue had own culture. Personality. Spirit.

### **Acts 17:11**

1. **Noble**: well-born, high in quality or disposition of mind; Sharp, classy.
2. **Receptive**. Listened attentively and respectfully to Word of God.
3. **Studious... Searched**: Dug out; studied, cross-referenced everything heard with OT scriptures.

*Daily*—consistently... a must when it came to the synagogue.

Balance: Noble + Receptive + Studious.

Balance: Open mind to preaching; narrow mind to truth.

Bereans—thirsty but not gullible